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Yonkers Green Policy Task Force News Blast

Wednesday, August 18, 2009

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Wed., August 19 at 6:30
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Save the Date: Sept. 25 and 26
All Aboard!
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Sign Up

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Quick Links

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The following is on our agenda:

1. Recycling
 - Master recycling/composting program
 - Paper recycling in the schools
 - Downtown program for recycling
 - Warburton Ave. recycling

2. Transportation
 - school bus retrofit grant
 - bus idling grant

3. GPTF
 - signage
 - Riverfest

Any additional items that may properly come before this Committee.

Topless Recycling

Recycling Tip of the Day:

Please remove all **plastic** screw tops and caps from their containers before recycling.

RECYCLE: Glass jars and bottles (any size, any color).

HOW: Rinse containers and **discard plastic caps**. Place metal caps and rinsed jars and bottles loose in the same recycling bin with plastic and metal containers. Labels need not be removed.

DON'T RECYCLE: Glass that is not used for packaging food or beverages, such as light bulbs, drinking glasses, crystal, window and mirror glass, ceramic ware, kitchen cookware, pesticide/herbicide or other bottles which held potentially hazardous materials. Put these items in the garbage.

Use It or Lose It

Rivertowns

commuters ferrying between Yonkers and downtown Manhattan will be happy to hear that the boat will be kept afloat while Yonkers waits for an expected \$1.8 million in federal and local grants.

The \$300,000 loan by the Empire State Development Corp. averted a service shut down, officials said, adding that it serves as a major attraction in their bid to attract new residents to Yonkers' developing downtown waterfront district.

The rail and road friendly water taxi service has seen a small but growing ridership since first operating in 2007. Studies say the Yonkers ferries need about five years to attract enough commuters to cut the subsidies necessary to keep it operational.

So far, so good, says one rider.

"It feels like you are on vacation every day when you ride the ferry," said Jose Gutterriez of Yonkers. "I love it."

For schedules and fares, click [here](#) or call 212-742- 1969 (choose option 3.) The watertaxi offers service between Yonkers (plenty of parking), Pier 79, West 39th Street, World Financial Center (Battery Park City) and Pier 11, Wall Street (Wall St and South St). The company plans to add a West 39th Street stop next month. They also operate free shuttle bus service to Lincoln Center, 57th Street, 50th Street, 42nd Street, 34th Street and Downtown.

Yonkers Farmer's Market

The St. John's Farmer's Market in [downtown Yonkers](#) at Getty Square (1 Hudson Street) is in full swing on Thursdays between 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. through November 19.

Help support our farmers and your family's health by buying locally. Note that according to the USDA, the farmers market directory listed 4,685 farmers markets operating in the United States in 2008 representing an 6.8 percent increase from 4,385 farmers markets in 2006.

Walk Your Eco Talk



It used to be hip to be square. Now it's hip to be green. How does one delineate all the cocktail party conversation and office banter when it comes to matters of

footprint?

commingled vs. carbon

Here's a quick **Eco-Speak Primer** to help guide you in the green direction:

Big Five - The most commonly included recyclable materials in curbside recycling programs: aluminum, glass, paper, plastic, and steel.

Biofuel - A renewable resource that can provide energy from unexpected sources, such as the gasses emitted from landfills or from food crops. Biodiesel comes from biofuel which lessens an engine's dependence on gasoline.

Carbon Offset - An environmental apology of sorts whereby money is invested in a project that benefits the environment to make up for past actions. The most common form of carbon offset is planting trees to absorb carbon dioxide.

Close the Loop - This refers to the point when you buy a recycled product after it has been put into a recycling program and reprocessed into a new item. Ex: Tires.

Grey Water - Domestic water from dish washing, laundry and bathing. With groundwater reserves dwindling, there is much interest in reusing or recycling it both domestically and for commercial irrigation.

Kyoto Protocol - An international agreement between 137 (and growing) developed countries to work toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change. It was originally passed in 1997 in Kyoto, Japan and is set to expire in 2012; the United States has signed but not ratified the agreement, meaning it is non-binding in the U.S.

Low-Flow - Water-saving products such as low-flow shower heads and low-flow toilets.

PET - Polyethylene terephthalate. A type of plastic used to make drink bottles, food containers and fabric.

Post-Consumer - Material that's reused/recycled. Ex: Yesterday's newspaper that is now en route back to the paper mill to be recycled into becoming another paper product.

Pre-Consumer - This term describes material that is reused/recycled before it ever sees the light of day (e.g. sawdust at the lumber mill being used to make cabinets.)

Three R's - Come on! Even your kids know this one. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Reduce your waste. Reuse products and packaging for other purposes. Then recycle.

Virgin Product - Any product that is made with 100 percent new raw materials and contains no recycled content.

Plastic Vs. Plastic

Hasn't everyone wondered what the numbers in the triangle on the bottom of your plastic containers really



mean? Here in

Yonkers, we are equipped to recycle number 1's and 2's only but what are number 1's and 2's in the first place? And what about 4's?

This list will help:

#1 PET (Polyethylene terephthalate): soda bottles, oven-ready meal trays, and water bottles.

#2 HDPE (High-density polyethylene): milk bottles, detergent bottles, and grocery/trash/retail bags.

#3 PVC (Polyvinyl chloride): plastic food wrap, loose-leaf binders, and plastic pipes.

#4 LDPE (Low-density polyethylene): dry cleaning bags, produce bags, and squeezable bottles.

#5 PP (Polypropylene): medicine bottles, aerosol caps, drinking straws, and food containers (such as yogurt, ketchup bottles and tubs (butter, etc.)

#6 PS (Polystyrene): compact disc jackets, packaging Styrofoam peanuts, and plastic tableware.

#7 Other: reusable water bottles, certain kinds of food containers, and Tupperware.

Content contributed by the Sierra Club and Earth911

Save the Date: Sept. 25 and 26

In an effort to protect the dwindling wildlife we have left in and around the Saw Mill River, [Groundwork Hudson Valley](#) has organized a wildlife headcount, called a BioBlitz, to help educate residents, municipal decision-makers, naturalists, and all others about this precious watershed.

The public is invited to participate by helping more than 65 scientists and experts will conduct a 24- hour, around the clock inventory of all the living organisms by cataloguing as many species of plants, animals, insects, fungi, bacteria, etc. that they find in an area.

The goal is two-fold: to educate residents of the Saw Mill River watershed communities as to what kinds of wildlife live in their own backyards and to inform agencies that are working to protect and enhance life within the watershed.

There will also be a number of scientific lectures, events and workshops over the course of the weekend. A junior BioBlitz is geared to a younger audience.

Here's the sked:

Opening Ceremonies:

Friday, September 25, 4:30 - 5:30 pm - The Science Barge, end of Dock St., Yonkers, NY

Watch Yonkers' municipal officials "release" the scientists into the watershed. River seining at the mouth of the River will be conducted.

Junior BioBlitz:

Saturday, September 26, 10:30am and 12:30pm, Pace University Pleasantville Campus, Pleasantville, NY

Students, K-8 will participate in a Junior BioBlitz where they'll survey sections of the campus and identify species with nature center docents.

Shadow a Scientist:

Saturday, September 26, Various times and locations.

There will be a limited number of "shadowing" positions for high school students to accompany scientists during their field work.

Nature Walks:

Saturday, September 26, 11:00am and 1:00pm, Pace University Campus, Pleasantville, NY

Docents will lead nature walks of the campus to identify birds, trees, plants, and other "critters."

Lecture Series:

Saturday, September 26, 1:00 - 4:00 pm- Pace University Campus, Student Center, Pleasantville, NY

Lectures on biodiversity and its importance will be held. Time for roundtable discussions will be included for people to give input about what is important to them and ask questions.

Roundtable Discussions:

Saturday, September 26, 1:00 - 5:00 pm- Pace University Campus, Student Center, Pleasantville, NY

Throughout the lecture series, municipal officials will participate in targeted sessions that focus on the ways municipalities can incorporate resource protection into village and town land use decisions.

Closing Ceremonies:

Saturday, September 26, 4:00-5:30pm

Total number of species identified will be announced and participating scientists will be honored.

For press inquiries & business sponsorship opportunities: Ann-Marie Mitroff, Director of River Programs, annmarie@groundworkhv.org

All Aboard!

Come aboard the [Groundwork Yonkers Science Barge](#) in downtown Yonkers on the pier next to [x20 Xavier's on the Hudson](#) restaurant to discover this floating farm and have the kids do some fun summer activities.

Sunday, August 23: Paint a Peat Pot!

"Peat" is a material that naturally forms out of plant matter that when dried serves as a great seed starting container. Kids (and adults) can come plant provided seeds in their very own peat pot and paint it with all natural milk paint. You can then plant the whole biodegradable pot in your own garden.

Sunday, August 30: Pop Bottle Planters

Save our rivers and streams from potential debris by turning used plastic soda bottles into useful recycled planters. They are fun and easy to make and plants love growing in them.

Sunday, August 30: Recyclable Symphony

Construct a recyclable symphony by making a wind, string, or percussion instrument out of recyclable or re-usable instruments and then play them all together!

Call [G roundwork Hudson Valley](tel:9143752151) at (914) 375-2151 for more information.

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This eblast is provided by the Yonkers City Council's [Green Policy Task Force](#). The Task Force meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. on the 4th floor of City Hall. If you know of others in the environmental community who would like to receive this news or attend meetings, please email laura.fahrenthold@yonkersny.gov

From: Council President Chuck Lesnick with Chairman Bob Walters and Coordinator Laura Fahrenthold; District 1 Councilmember Pat McDow with Margaret Setterholm; District 2 Majority Leader Sandy Annabi with Nortrud Spero; District 3 Councilmember Joan Gronowski with Loretta Miraglia; District 4 Minority Leader Liam J. McLaughlin with Terry Joshi; District 5 Councilmember John Murtagh with Molly Roffman; District 6 Councilmember Dee Barbato with Mel Goldstein; Administration's Appointee Joe D'Lando.

Written by Laura Fahrenthold

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